

**REMARKS**

In accord with MPEP §1206(I)(B), Applicants request entry of the presently presented amendments.

In the Office Action dated June 2, 2009, claims 20 and 23 were objected to for lacking the word "isolated" before the phrase "plant miRNA precursor" in line 3 of part (b) of the claims. The presently presented amendments insert the word --isolated-- as suggested.


In the Office Action, other amendments were suggested. Specifically, it was suggested that the word --an-- be changed to the word --the-- before "endogenous miRNA" in line 1 of part (a) of claims 20 and 23. Applicants respectfully point out, however, that no antecedent basis exists in the claims for utilizing the word --the-- at this location of the claims. Accordingly, this amendment has not been made.

Additionally, in the Office Action it was suggested that the word --the-- be inserted before "nucleotides" in line 1 of part (b) of claims 20 and 23. Applicants respectfully point out, however, that no antecedent basis exists in the claims for utilizing the word --the-- at this location of the claims. Accordingly, this amendment has not been made.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Response to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully requested,  
DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

Date: December 16, 2009

  
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